

SECTION III.

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The demographic profile of a population is important in the Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment because it allows the identification of groups at high risk for negative pregnancy outcomes by age, socioeconomic status, geography, race/ethnicity, household structure, and other variables. Understanding the demographics of the county helps to better target prevention interventions to meet specific maternal and child health needs.

According to the U.S. Census, over five million (5,130,632) people lived in Arizona in the year 2000. More than three million (3,072,149) of them lived in Maricopa County⁶. Between 1990 and 2000, the county population grew 44.8%⁷. Maricopa County is now the fourth largest county in the United States, after Los Angeles CA, Cook (Chicago) IL, and Harris (Houston) TX⁷.

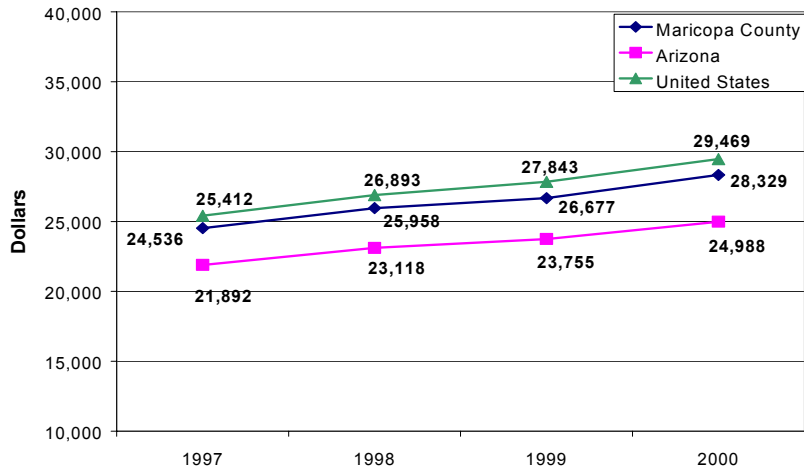
Socioeconomic indicators for Maricopa County were similar to those for the U.S. and Arizona. Table 1 provides a breakdown of these indicators for 1999^{6,8,12}. The U.S. Census identified more than one million (1,132,886) Maricopa County households (one or more people who occupy a space intended for use as separate living quarters). Of the county households, 67.4% belonged to families (two or more people living together that are related by birth, marriage, or adoption), 51.6% belonged to married couple families, and 10.7% to female head of household families (no husband present). The average number of people who occupied a housing unit was 2.67. Slightly more people, 3.21, on average occupied housing units that were classified as family households.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Indicators: Maricopa County, Arizona, and the United States, 1999*

	Maricopa County	Arizona	United States
Families ⁶	67.4%	67.7%	68.1%
Married Couple Family ⁶	51.6%	51.9%	51.7%
Female Heads of Household ⁶	10.7%	11.1%	12.2%
Children <18 years in Household ⁶	36.2%	35.4%	36.0%
Average Household Size ⁶	2.67	2.64	2.59
Average Family Size ⁶	3.21	3.18	3.14
Unemployment Rate ¹²	3.0	4.4	4.2
Poverty Level ⁸	11.7%	13.9%	12.4%

Maricopa County's average personal income from 1997 through 2000 was below the United States' average personal income but above Arizona's average¹³, see Figure 1. The county's average was 96% of the U.S. average, while Arizona's average was 85% of the U.S. average in 2000¹⁴.

Figure 1. Per Capita Personal Income (U.S. BEA data ¹³)



For 1999, the poverty rate of 11.7% in the county was below both the Arizona and the U.S. poverty rates (13.9% and 12.4%, respectively) ⁸. Figure 2 shows Maricopa County's average unemployment rate compared with the United States from 1993 to 2001. Following the U.S. trend, the unemployment rate in the county was low from 1997 through the year 2000 but increased during 2001 ¹².

Figure 2. Maricopa County, AZ and the United States' Average Unemployment Rate from 1993 to 2001 (AZ DES data ¹²)

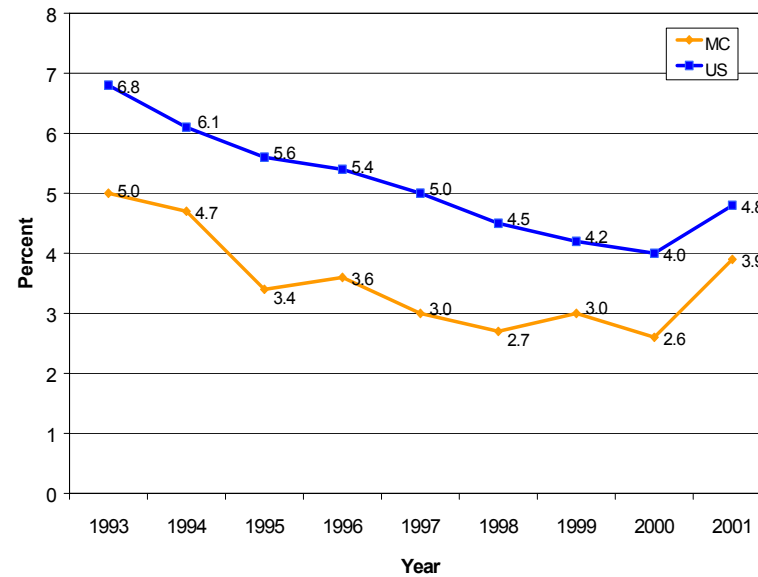
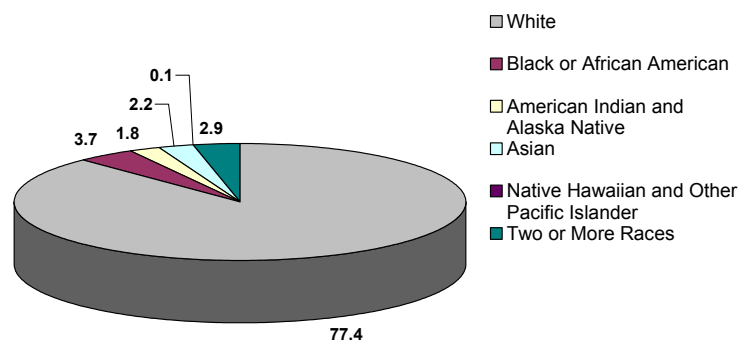


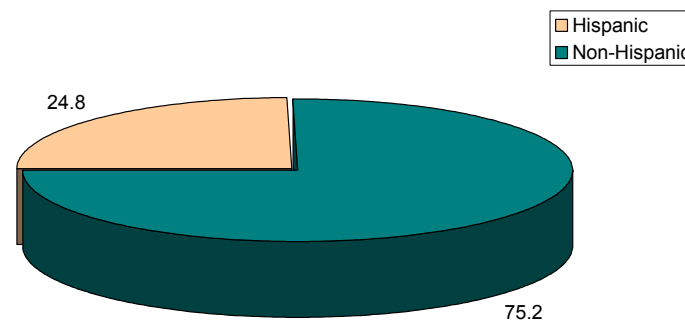
Figure 3 shows the distribution of the Maricopa County population by race, according to the 2000 Census ⁶. The self-reported race of the majority of Maricopa County residents was White (77.4%), while almost 3% of Maricopa County residents reported being of two or more races.

Figure 3. Percent Distribution of the Maricopa County, AZ Population by Race, 2000 ⁶



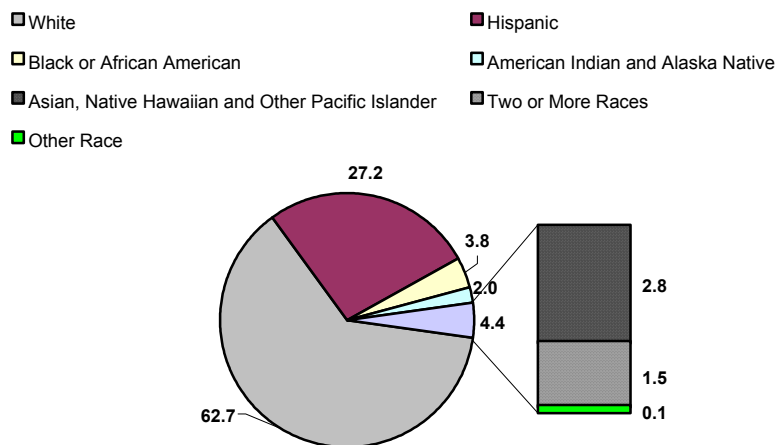
As shown in Figure 4, Hispanics or Latinos of all races accounted for 24.8% of the county's population. The majority (20.3% of the total population) is of Mexican origin.

Figure 4. Percent Distribution of the Maricopa County, AZ Population by Hispanic Ethnicity, 2000 ⁶



The population of women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years) in Maricopa County in the year 2000 was 675,334. This represents 44% of all women and 22% of the total population¹⁰. Figure 5 shows the race/ethnicity distribution of the county's women of childbearing age. Note that Figure 5 includes the percent of Hispanics while Figure 3 did not.

Figure 5. Percent Distribution of the Female Population of Childbearing Age (15-44) in Maricopa County, AZ by Race/Ethnicity, 2000¹⁰



The age distribution of the county population is shown in Figure 6. Children under the age of 15 make up 23% of the population. Adults past the traditional retirement age of 65 comprise almost 12% of the population.

Figure 6. Percent Distribution of Maricopa County, AZ Population by Age Group, 2000⁶

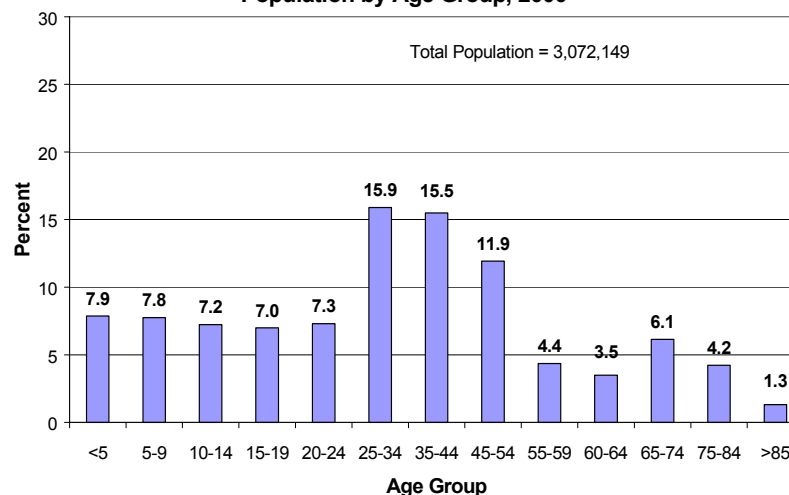
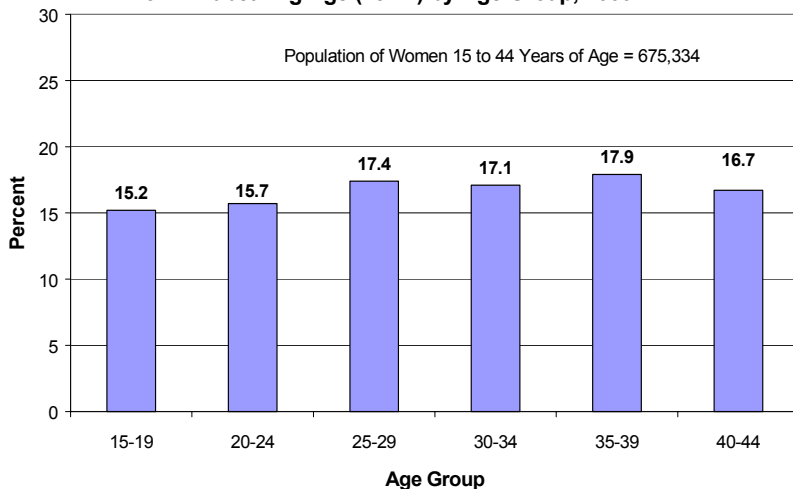


Figure 7. Percent Distribution of Maricopa County, AZ Women of Childbearing Age (15-44) by Age Group, 2000¹⁰



Women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years) are fairly equally distributed across five-year age groups, ranging from 15.2% for the 15 to 19 year old group to 17.9% for the 35 to 39 year old group⁵ (see Figure 7).

A. BIRTH PROFILE

More than 55 thousand babies were born to Maricopa County residents during 2001. The birth rate since 1997 has risen from 77 to approximately 81 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2000 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Birth Rates (per 1,000 Women Age 15-44) Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001

Year	Births	Population of Women 15-44 ^{*†}	Birth Rate
1997	47,127	608,221 ⁹	77.48
1998	49,324	620,477 ⁹	79.49
1999	51,503	633,465 ⁹	81.30
2000	54,470	675,334 ¹⁰	80.66
2001	55,624	NA	NA

^{*}1997-1999 data are from Arizona DES population projections⁹.

[†]2000 data are from 2000 Census¹⁰.

NA = not available.

Over 50% of the births to Maricopa County residents were to women age 20 to 29. The mother's age at the time she delivers (maternal age) affects pregnancy risk, such that older and younger mothers have higher risk of negative pregnancy outcomes than mothers in their twenties. Thirteen percent of the births were to females under the age of 20, while 2.1% of the births were to women over the age of 40. Figure 8 shows the distribution of births by maternal age for each year from 1997 to 2001.

During 2000, the highest birth rates were to women aged 20 to 24 (140.2 per 1,000 women) and 25 to 29 (128.5 per 1,000 women). From 1997 to 2000, the birth rates slightly decreased for women in the age groups under 25 years and slightly increased for women 25 years of age and older. Figure 9 shows birth rates by age groups and year. Population estimates for the year 2001 were not available; therefore, no birth rates are available for 2001.

Figure 8. Percent Distribution of Births by Maternal Age Group in Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001

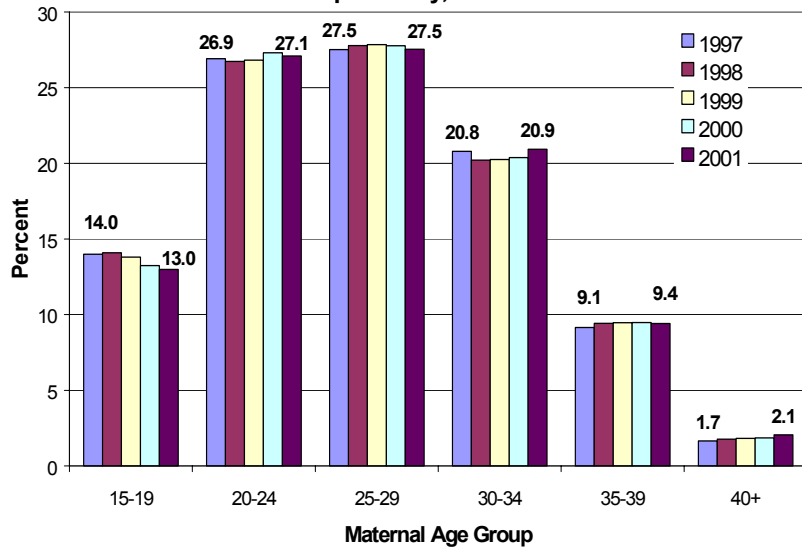
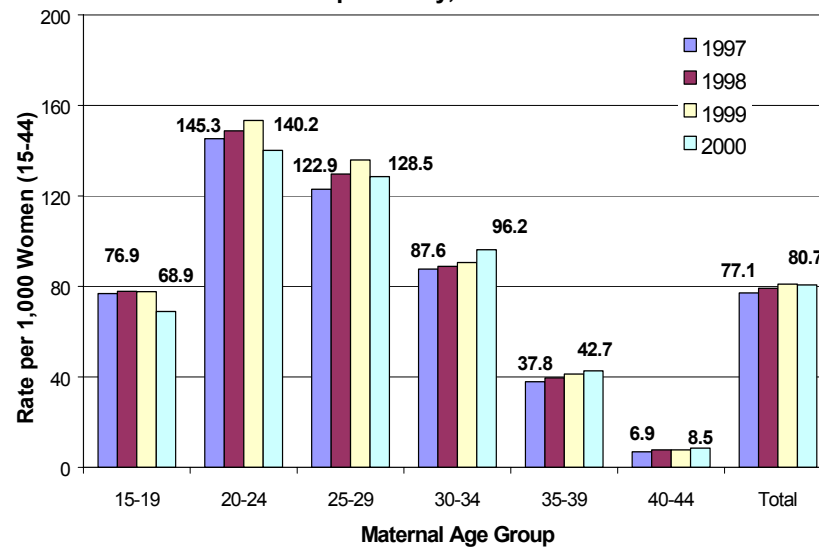


Figure 9. Birth Rate by Maternal Age Group and Year, Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2000



Racial and ethnic group membership may affect pregnancy risk because it is often a proxy variable for socioeconomic status and living conditions as well as some cultural and behavioral patterns. Of the births in Maricopa County during 2001, 47.4% were to White, Non-Hispanic mothers and 43.0% were to Hispanic mothers of all races (see Figure 10). Although the absolute number of births increased within every race/ethnicity category, the percent distribution has changed. The percentage of white births decreased from 53.7% of births in 1997 to 47.4% of births in 2001, the percentage of Hispanic births increased from 37.0% to 43.0%. The percentages of births for Non-Hispanic African Americans, Native Americans, and Asians changed little from 1997 to 2001. Section X examines key indicators by race/ethnicity from 1997 to 2001.

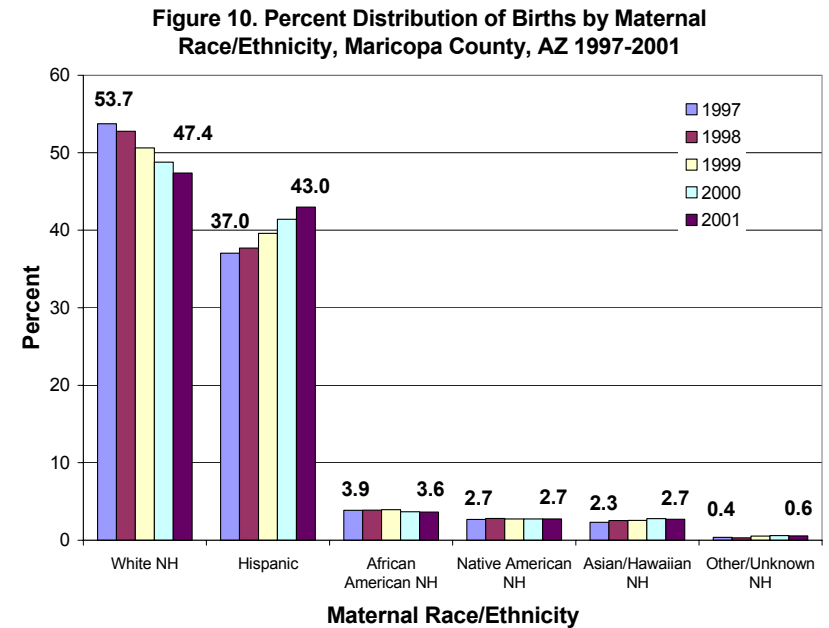
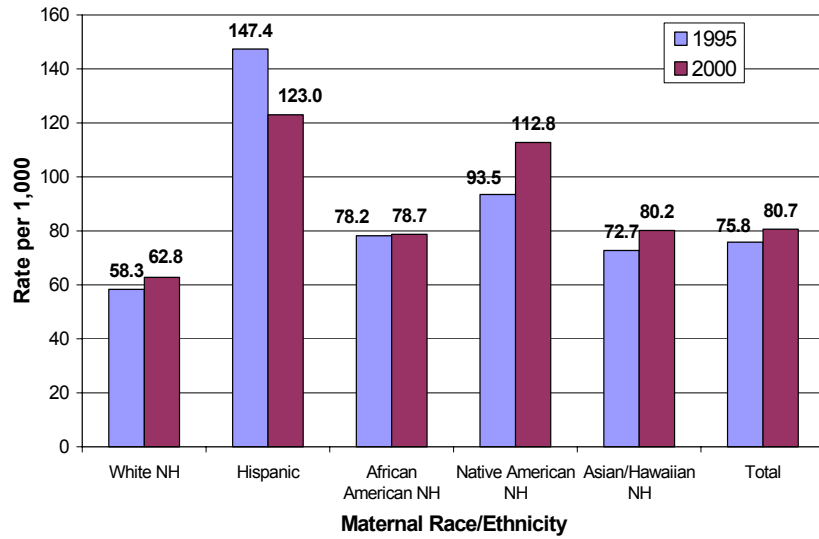
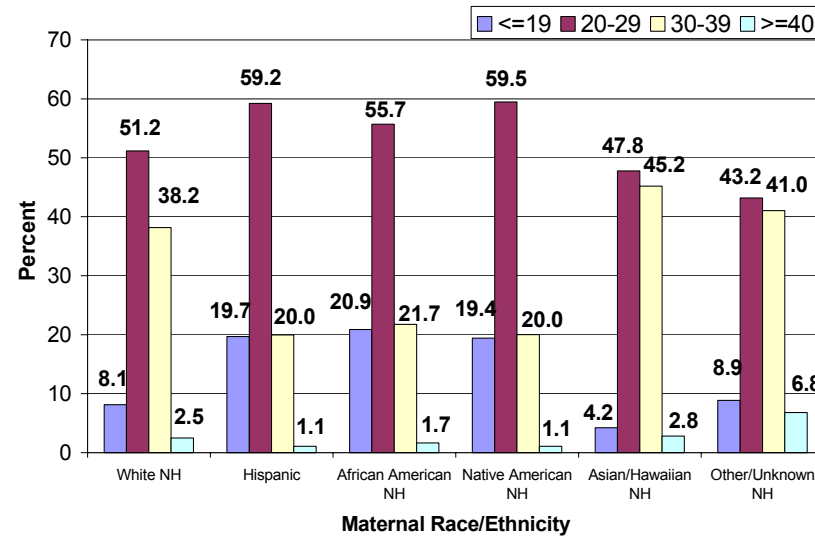


Figure 11. Birth Rate by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, Maricopa County, AZ 1995 & 2000



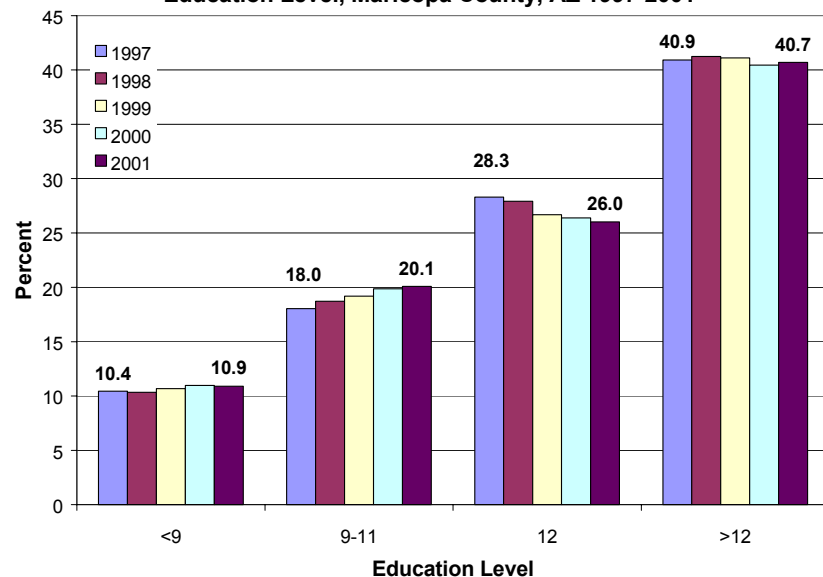
Although Hispanic women gave birth at almost twice the rate of White women, their birth rate has decreased from 147.4 to 123.0 births since 1995. See Figure 11 for birth rates by maternal race/ethnicity.

Figure 12. Percent Distribution of Births by Maternal Age and Race/Ethnicity, Maricopa County, AZ 1998-2001 Average



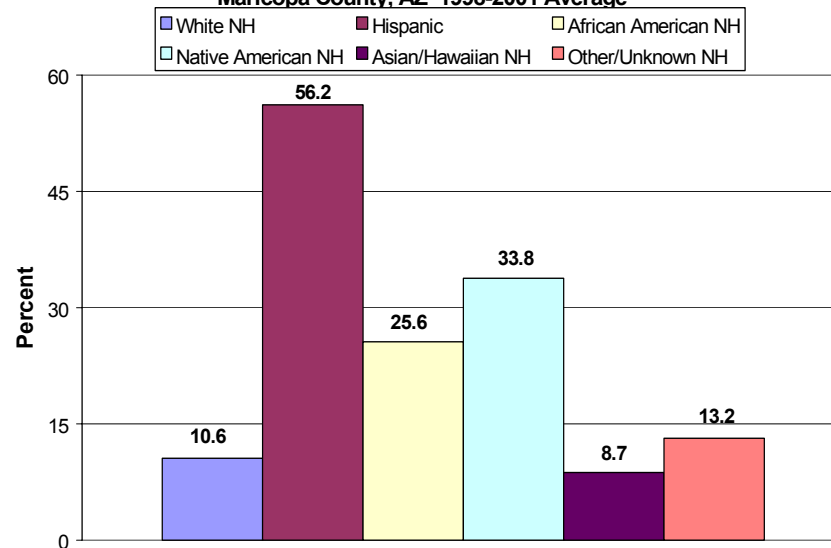
The percent of Hispanic, African American, and Native American women giving birth in the younger age groups (less than 29 years old) was higher than the equivalent percent among White and Asian women. Figure 12 shows the percent distribution of births by maternal age and race/ethnicity.

Figure 13. Percent Distribution of Births by Maternal Education Level, Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001



Educational attainment may affect pregnancy risk because it is related to behavioral patterns, income levels, and access to care. Although the absolute number of women giving birth in almost all education categories increased, the percent distribution by education level changed somewhat. The percent of women giving birth who had less than a twelfth grade education slightly increased from 1997 to 2001, from 28.4% to 31.0%, while the percentage giving birth with a twelfth grade education or more slightly decreased (see Figure 13).

Figure 14. Percent of Women within Each Race/Ethnicity Giving Birth with Less than a Twelfth Grade Education, Maricopa County, AZ 1998-2001 Average



More than half of the Hispanic women (56.2%) giving birth during the years 1998 through 2001 did not have a twelfth grade education, accounting for 75% of the births to women of all races/ethnicities with less than a high school education. One third of Native American women (33.8%), one fourth of African American women (25.6%), 10.6% of White women, and 8.7% of Asian women had not completed high school when they gave birth (see Figure 14).

The percentage of births paid for by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) increased slightly from a low of 39.7% in 1999 to 43.9% in 2001 (see Figure 15). The percentage of births without recorded insurance coverage, paid for by the individual herself, decreased slightly from 4.0 in 1997 to 2.3% in 2001.

While 57% of the births paid for by AHCCCS were to women with less than 12 years of education, only 9% of births paid for by private insurance were to women with less than 12 years of education (see Figure 16).

Figure 15. Percent Distribution of Births by Source of Payment for Delivery, Maricopa County, AZ 1997-2001

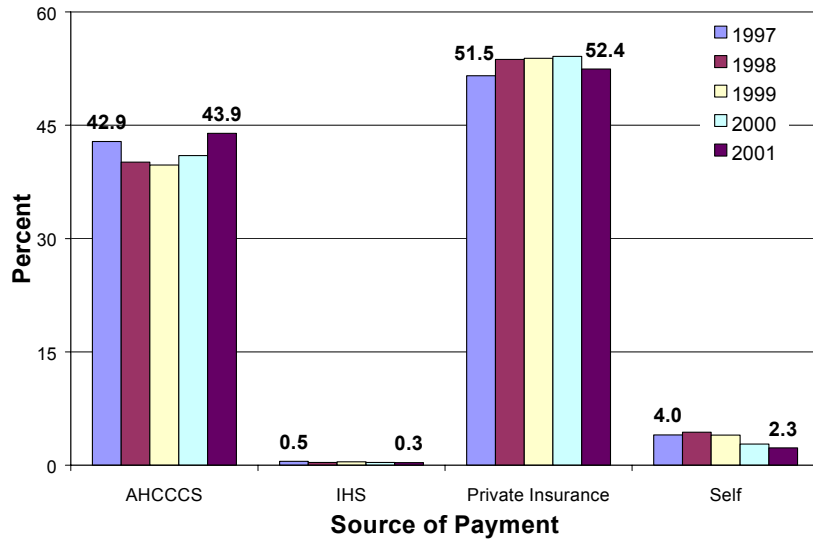


Figure 16. Percent Distribution of Births by Education Level within each Category of Source of Payment for Delivery, Maricopa County, AZ 2001

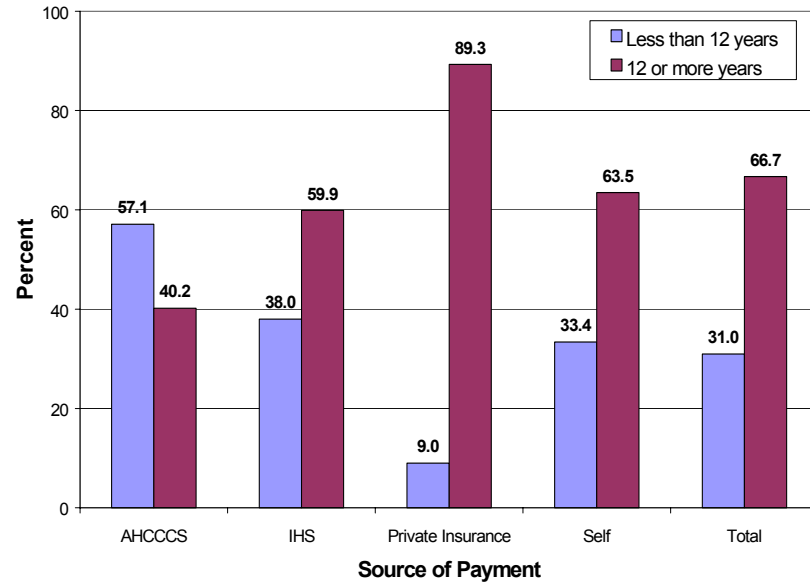
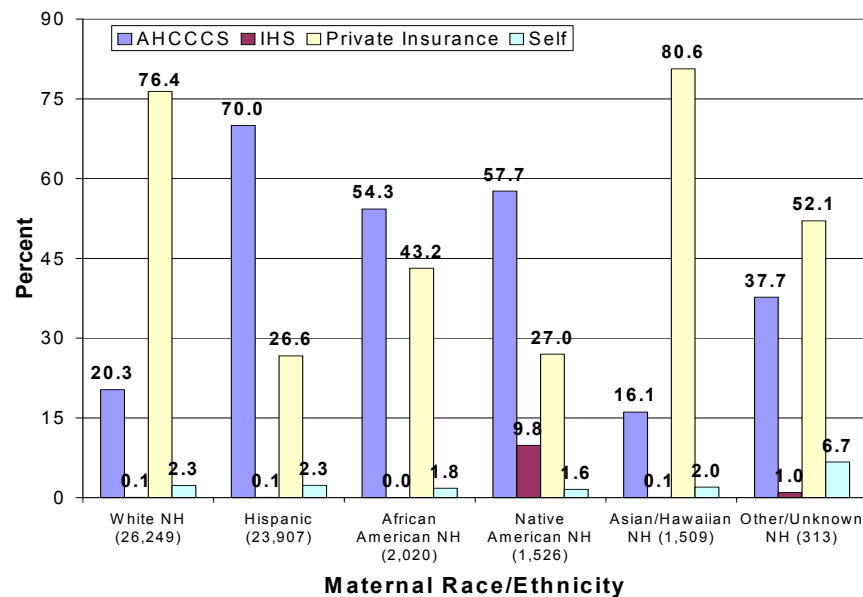


Figure 17. Percent Distribution of Births within Maternal Race/Ethnicity by Source of Payment for Delivery, Maricopa County, AZ 2001



Most Asian women (80.6%) paid for their deliveries with private insurance, as did most White women (76.4%). The majority of Hispanic women (70%) paid for their delivery with AHCCCS as did a little over half of the African American (54.3%) and Native American (57.7%) women. Figure 17 shows the percent distribution of births by race/ethnicity and source of payment.